

PHARMACY DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS

Name	Eligibility Criteria	Benefit
Eli Lilly LillyAnswers Card *	Annual income below \$18,000 or \$24,000 per household. Call 1-877-795-4559 for application. Visit web site at: www.lillyanswers.com.	You pay \$12 for each 30-day supply of a covered Lilly drug.
Pfizer Helpful Answers	Offers a variety of programs tailored to your need and income. Families can earn up to \$45,000. You DO NOT need to be enrolled in Medicare for this program, though Pfizer is also associated with a few Medicare-sponsored drug discount cards where you will need to be enrolled in Medicare. For more data or an application, call 1-866-706-2400 or visit their web site at www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com.	You will either receive free drugs, a discount of 15-50% or pay a flat rate of \$15 for each 30-day supply of a covered Pfizer drug.
Together-Rx Card *	Annual income below \$28,000 or \$38,000 per couple. Call 1-800-865-7211 for an application, or visit web site at www.together-rx.com. The companies covered by this card include Abbott Labs, AstraZeneca, Aventis, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Novartis and Ortho-McNeil.	You will receive a 20-40% discount on their covered drugs.

* Note that all of these cards are free, but the Lilly and Together-Rx Cards are only available to Medicare recipients who do not have an actual pharmacy benefit through private insurance or Medicaid. You will **not** be excluded from these programs by simply possessing another pharmacy discount card.

If you have any questions about your health coverage, call **(703) 324-5851** to speak with a VICAP health insurance counselor.

PHARMACY ASSISTANCE OPTIONS

- Canada Drugs

(Please note: Buying drugs from Canada, while not allowed by current law, may become legal in the near future.)

This service allows an individual to order medications from Canada by calling the company's toll-free number **(1-888-447-6760)** or by accessing the website at **www.canadadrugs.com**. A completed application form, together with the prescription, needs to be mailed to Canada Drugs. Please note that controlled substances cannot be shipped over the border.

Comparison of costs revealed that most drugs purchased through this program were about 50% less expensive than if purchased in the United States. There is a \$10 handling fee per shipment, so it is better to order all of the medications needed at one time. It is wise to have a 90-day prescription to maximize the savings on the cost of shipping.

- Costco

Costco, formerly known as the Price Club, has prices substantially lower than most local pharmacies. You do not need to be a club member to use their pharmacy services. Your doctor can fax your prescription to them. They accept most credit cards or cash. Regular delivery via USPS is free. You can find their locations and prices by using their web site at **www.costco.com**. You can also find their locations in the phone directory.

- Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Cards

Medicare beneficiaries can now enroll in one of the many drug discount cards offered by Medicare-approved sponsors. For more information, visit the Medicare web site at **www.medicare.gov** or call them at 1-800-633-4227. These cards can save you 10-25% on the cost of your medications. Persons with low-incomes, \$12,569 for a single person and \$16,862 for a couple, can enroll into a card at no cost and will also receive a \$600 credit to use towards the purchase of their medications. These income limits change each year.

PHARMACY ASSISTANCE OPTIONS

- The Medicine Program

For a \$5 processing fee per drug requested, The Medicine Program will search their computer database to determine whether a drug is available under the patient assistance programs providing free medications to qualified individuals. If a drug is available, this program sends an application form that needs to be completed by the individual and their physician. The form is then sent to the drug company, who reviews it and makes a decision about eligibility. For more information, call (573) 996-7300, or visit their website at www.themedicineprogram.com.

If an individual qualifies, the company sends a shipment of drugs to their physician who then distributes the drugs to the individual. There is no cost for the drugs.

- Needy Meds

This is a one-stop, web-based source for finding data on the many pharmacy assistance programs listed above. The data is presented in a user-friendly format and you can download program applications at no cost. We have found this web site to be the most useful site for obtaining medications for free. You are able to locate an assistance program based on the drug name or the drug company name. For more data, please visit their web page at www.needymeds.com.

- PhRMA Patient Assistance Programs

Most pharmaceutical manufacturers offer free drugs to needy low-income patients. Each company establishes their own income guidelines to determine who is eligible. Most of these programs require that your doctor become a partner in the application and dispensing process. Applications can be acquired by calling the company, though some may require that your health care provider obtain the necessary applications. A PhRMA guide that lists the companies who participate in such programs and instructions for submitting an application can be obtained by calling **1-800-762-4636**. In order for you to use the guide efficiently, you will first need to know the name of the company providing each of your drugs.

PHARMACY ASSISTANCE OPTIONS

- Veterans Administration

A 30-day supply of prescription medications costs only \$7 through the VA. Disabled or low-income veterans may receive medications for free. The veteran must have been honorably discharged, must enroll with the VA, and must be assessed by a VA doctor. The VA will only dispense drugs prescribed by a VA doctor, not by a private physician. For more info about this benefit, you can call 1-877-222-8387, or visit the VA web site at www.va.gov. You can make an appointment at the VA Medical Center in Washington by calling **202-745-8247**, or by calling the VA Clinic in Alexandria at 703-360-1442.